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Ministry of Advanced Education
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

PROVINCE PROVIDES $1M FOR TRADES AT NORTHERN LIGHTS

FORT ST. JOHN – Northern Lights College is receiving a $1-million boost from the Province to update and enhance trades training equipment and support the Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence, ministers Murray Coell and Richard Neufeld and MLA Blair Lekstrom announced today.

"Part of this funding will give students in NLC's industrial mechanics program access to the sophisticated instruments used today for measuring and controlling industrial processes, so they will learn on the same equipment they will encounter in the field," said Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and MLA for Peace River North. "We are also funding the Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence to develop a secretariat that will ensure education, training and research at the centre is fine-tuned to meet the needs of industry and students alike."

The Ministry of Advanced Education is providing Northern Lights College with $890,000 to buy and install new equipment for the industrial instrument mechanics program.

"Our surging economy has led to huge demand for tradespeople all over B.C., and this funding will help Northern Lights and other post-secondary institutions continue to provide first-rate training on modern equipment," said Coell, Minister of Advanced Education. "We've invested almost $119 million since 2001 in trades training equipment and facilities to help our colleges, university colleges and institutes keep up with today's rapid technological change."

The other $110,000, from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, will be used to develop the Secretariat for the Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence, as well as providing equipment for the centre.

"Northern Lights College is an important institution for all of northeastern B.C., as it allows students to study in or near their hometowns," said Lekstrom, MLA for Peace River South. "This funding is going to improve an important industrial mechanics program that provides workers for the local oil and gas industry, as well as enhancing the Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence."

The Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence/Jim Kassen Industry Training Centre opened last fall at Northern Lights College to prepare students to enter the oil and gas industry and support the growth of B.C.'s economy.

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